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## Jane Eyre.

BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE.

### CHAPTER I.

THERE was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds as somber, and a rain so penetrating, that further out-door exercise was now out of the question.

I was glad of it; I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons; dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John and Georgiana Reed.

The said Eliza, John and Georgiana were now clustered round their mamma in the drawing-room; she lay reclining on a sofa by the fireside, and, with her darlings about her, (for the time neither quarreling nor crying,) looked perfectly happy. Me she had dispensed from joining the group, saying, "She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and she could discover by her own observation that I was endeavoring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy little children."

"What does Bessie say I have done?" I asked.

"Jane, I don't like cavilers or questioners; besides, there is something truly forbidding in a child taking up her elders in that manner. Be seated somewhere;

and, until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent."

A small breakfast-room adjoining the drawing-room; I slipped in there. It contained a book-case; I soon possessed myself of a volume, taking care that it should be one stored with pictures. I mounted into the window-seat; gathering up my feet, I sat cross-legged like a Turk; and, having drawn the red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrouded in double retirement.

Folds of scarlet drapery shut in my view to the right hand; to the left were the clear panes of glass protecting, but not separating me from the drear November day. At intervals, while turning over the leaves of my book, I studied the aspect of that winter afternoon. Afar it offered a pale blank of mist and cloud; near, a scene of wet lawn and storm-beat shrub, with ceaseless

rain sweeping away wildly before a long and lamentable blast.

I returned to my book—Bewick's History of British Birds; the letter-press thereof I cared little for, generally speaking; but there were certain introductory pages that, child as I was, I could not pass quite as a blank. They were those which treat of the haunts of sea-fowl; of "the solitary rocks and promontories" by them only inhabited; of the coast of Norway, studded with isles from its southern extremity, the Lindeness, or Naze, to the North Cape—

"Where the Northern Ocean in vast whirls  
Boils round the naked, melancholy isles  
Of farthest Thule; and the Atlantic surge  
Pours in among the stormy Hebrides."

Nor could I pass unnoticed the suggestions on the bleak shores of Lapland, Siberia Spitzbergen,

Nova Zembla, Iceland, Greenland, with "the vast sweep of the Arctic Zone, and those forlorn regions of dreary space—that reservoir of frost and snow, where firm fields of ice, the accumulation of centuries of winters, glazed in Alpine heights above heights surround the pole, and concentrate the multiplied rigors of extreme cold." Of these death-white realms I formed an idea of my own—shadowy, like all the half-comprehended notions that float dim through children's brains, but strangely impressive. The words in these introductory pages connected themselves with the succeeding vignettes; and gave significance to the rock standing up alone in a sea of billow and spray; to the broken boat stranded on a desolate coast; to the cold and ghastly moon glancing through bars of cloud at a wreck just sinking.

I cannot tell what sentiment haunted the quiet, solitary churchyard with its inscribed headstone; its gate, its two trees, its low horizon, girdled by a broken wall, and its newly-risen crescent, attesting the hour of eventide.

The two ships becalmed on a torpid sea, I believed to be marine phantoms.



JANE EYRE AND ROCHESTER.



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PRICE, 5 CENTS

## Charlotte Temple.

BY MRS. ROWSON.

### CHAPTER I.

#### A BOARDING-SCHOOL.

"Are you for a walk?" said Montraville to his companion, as they arose from the table; "are you for a walk, or shall we order a chaise and proceed to Portsmouth?" Belcour preferred the former; and they sauntered out to view the town, and to make remarks on the inhabitants as they returned from church.

Montraville was a lieutenant in the army; Belcour was his brother officer; they had been to take leave of their friends previous to their departure for America, and were now returning to Portsmouth, where the troops awaited orders for embarkment. They had stopped at Chichester to dine; and knowing they had sufficient time to reach the place of destination before dark, and yet allow them a walk, had resolved, it being Sunday afternoon, to take a survey of the Chichester ladies as they returned from their devotions.

They had gratified their curiosity, and were preparing to return to the inn without honoring any of the belles with particular attention, when Madame Du Pont, at the head of her school, descended from the church. Such an assemblage of youth and innocence naturally attracted the young soldiers; they stopped; and as the little cavalcade passed, almost involuntarily pulled off their hats. A tall, elegant girl looked at Montraville, and blushed; he instantly recollected the features of Charlotte Temple, whom he had once seen and danced with at a ball at Portsmouth. At the time he thought on her as a very lovely child, she being then only thirteen; but the improvement two years had made in her person, and the blush of recollection which suffused her cheeks as she passed, awakened in his bosom new and pleasing ideas. Vanity led him to think that pleasure at again beholding him might have occasioned the emotion he had witnessed; and the same vanity led him to wish to see her again.

"She is the sweetest girl in the world," said he, as he entered the inn. Belcour started. "Did you not notice her?" continued Montraville. She had on a blue bonnet, and with a pair of lovely eyes of the same color, had contrived to make me feel devilish odd about the heart."

"Poh," said Belcour, "a musket-ball from our friends, the Americans, may in a month or two make you feel worse."

"I never think of the future," said Montraville, "but am determined to make the most of the present, and would willingly compound with any kind Familiar who would inform me who the girl is, and how I might be likely to obtain an interview."

But no kind Familiar at that time appeared, and the chaise, which they had ordered, driving up to the door, Montraville and his companion were obliged to take leave of Chichester and its fair inhabitant, and proceed on their journey.

But Charlotte had made too great an impression on his mind to be easily eradicated; having therefore spent three whole days in thinking on her, and endeavoring to form some plan for seeing her, he determined to set off for Chichester, and trust to chance either to favor or frustrate his designs. Arriving at the verge of the town, he dismounted, and sending the servant forward with the horses, proceeded toward the place, where, in the midst of an extensive pleasure-ground, stood the mansion which contained the lovely Charlotte Temple. Montraville leaned on a broken gate, and looked earnestly at the house. The wall which surrounded it was high, and perhaps the Arguses who guarded the Hesperian fruit within were more watchful than those famed of old.

"Tis a romantic attempt," said he, "and should I even succeed in seeing and conversing with her, it can be productive of no good. I must of necessity leave England in a few days, and probably may never return; why, then, should I endeavor to engage the affections of this lovely girl, only to leave her a prey to a thousand inquietudes? I will return to Portsmouth, and think no more about her."

The evening was now closed; a serene stillness reigned; and the moon, with her silver crescent, faintly illuminated the hemisphere.

The mind of Montraville was calmed by the serenity of the surrounding objects. "I will think on her no more," said he, and turned with an intention to leave the place; but as he turned, he saw the gate which led to the pleasure-grounds open, and two women came out, who walked arm-in-arm across the field. "I will at least see who these are," said he.

He overtook them, and, after saluting, begged leave to see them into the more frequented parts of the town; but how was he delighted, when, waiting for an answer, he discovered, under the concealment of a large bonnet, the face of Charlotte Temple.

He soon found means to ingratiate himself with her companion, who was a French teacher at the school, and at parting, slipped a letter he had purposely written, into Charlotte's hand, and five guineas into that of mademoiselle, who promised she would endeavor to bring her young charge into the field again the next evening.



POOR CHARLOTTE'S GRAVE IN TRINITY CHURCHYARD.



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Character of the Rev'n,  
The Fruits of the War,  
The Sewing-Machine,  
True Manhood,  
The Mystery of Life,  
The Ups and Downs,  
The Truly Great,  
Early Retiring and Ris'g.  
A. Ward's Oration,  
True Nationality,  
Our Natal Day,  
Solferino,  
Intelligence the Basis of  
The War, [Liberty,  
Charge of Light Brigade,  
After the Battle,  
The Glass Railroad,  
Case of Mr. Macbeth,  
Prof. on Phrenology,  
Annabel Lee,  
Washington's Name,  
The Sailor Boy's Syren,

J. Jeboom's Oration,  
A Dutch Curp,  
The Weather,  
The Heated Term,  
Philosophy Applied,  
An Old Ballad,  
Penny Wise, Pound Fool,  
True Cleanliness, [ish,  
Sat'd'y Night's Enjoy'ts,  
"In a Just Cause,"  
No Peace with Oppres-  
sion,  
A Tale of a Mouse,  
A Thanksgiving Sermon,  
The Cost of Riches,  
Great Lives Imperishable  
The Prophecy for the Y'r  
Unfinished Problems,  
Honor to the Dead,  
Immortality of Patriots,  
Webster's Polit'l System,  
A Vision in the Forum,  
The Press,  
Woman's Rights,  
Right of the Governed,  
My Ladder,  
Woman,  
Alone,  
The Rebellion of 1861,  
Disunion.

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Our Country's Future,  
The Statesman's Labors,  
True Immortality,  
Let the Childless Weep,  
Our Country's Glory,  
Union a Household,  
Independence Bell,  
The Scholar's Dignity,  
The Cycles of Progress,  
A Christmas Chant,  
Stability of Christianity,  
The True Higher Law,  
The One Great Need,  
The Ship and the Bird,

Tecumseh's Speech,  
Territorial Expansion,  
Martha Hopkins,  
The Bashful Man's Story,  
The Matter-of-Fact Man,  
Rich and Poor,  
Seeing the Eclipse,  
Beauties of the Law,  
Ge-lang! Git Up,  
The Rats of Life,  
Crowning Glory of U. S.,  
Three Fools,  
Washington,  
Our Great Inheritance,  
Eulogy on Henry Clay,

Ohio,  
Oliver Hazard Perry,  
Our Domain,  
Systems of Belief,  
The Indian Chief,  
The Independent Farmer  
Mrs. Grammar's 'Ball,  
How the Money Comes,  
Future of the Fashions,  
Loyalty to Liberty,  
Our Country First, Last,  
and Always,  
British Influence,  
Defense of Jefferson,  
National Hatreds,

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America to the World,  
Love of Country,  
Right of Self-Preserva-  
Our Cause, [tion,  
A Kentuckian's appeal,  
Kentucky Steadfast,  
Timidity is Treason,  
The Alarm,  
April 15, 1861,  
The Spirit of '61,  
The Precious Heritag',  
The Irish Element,  
Train's Speech,  
Christy's Speech,  
Let Me Alone,  
Brigand-ier-General,  
The Draft,  
Union Square Speeches,  
The Union,  
Our Country's Call,  
The Story of an Oak Tree,  
Leg On My Leg,

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Klebcyergoss on the War,  
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Early Rising,  
The Wasp and the Bee,  
Comic Grammar, No. 1,  
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A. Ward's Advice,  
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Strive for the Best,  
Early Rising,  
Deeds of Kindness,  
Gates of Sleep,  
The Bugle,  
A Hoodish Gem,  
Purity of the Struggle,  
Old Age,  
Beautiful and True,  
The Worm of the Still,  
Man and the Infinite,  
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Washington,  
The Deluge.

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T. Fy Meagher's Address,  
We Owe to the Union,  
Lincoln's Message,  
Last Speech of Stephen  
A. Douglas,  
Great Bell Roland,  
The New Year and the  
King Cotton, [Union,  
Battle Anthem,  
The Ends of Peace,  
Freedom the Watchword  
Crisis of Our Nation,  
Duty of Christian Pa-  
triot,  
Turkey Dan's Oration,  
A Fearless Plea,  
The Onus of Slavery,  
A Foreigner's Tribute,  
The Little Zouave,  
Catholic Cathedral,  
The "Speculators."

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Cabbage,  
Disagreeable People,  
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Funny Folks,  
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Ward's Trip to Richm'd,  
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The Mountebank,  
Compound Interest,  
A Sermon on the Feet,  
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Brian O'Linn,  
Crockett to Office-seekers  
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The Cork Leg,  
The Smack in School,  
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The Debating Club,  
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and the Dagger; Hamlet's Soliloquy; Old Things;  
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A String of Onions,  
A Tragic Story,  
Cats,  
Courtship,  
Debt,  
Devils,  
Dow, Jr.'s Lectures,  
Ego and Echo,  
Fashionable Women,  
Fern Thistles,  
Good-Nature,  
Gottlieb Klebzyergoss,  
Schlackenlichter's snake,  
Hosea Biglow's Opinions,  
How the Money Goes,  
Hun-ki-do-ri's Fourth of  
July Oration,  
If you Mean No, Say No,  
Jo Bows on Leap Year,  
Lay of the Henpecked,  
Lot Skinner's Elegy,  
Matrimony,  
Nothing to Do,  
Old Caudle's Umbrella,  
Old Grimes's Son,  
Paddle Your Own Canoe,  
Parody on "Araby's  
Daughter,"

Poetry Run Mad,  
Right Names,  
Scientific Lectures,  
The Ager,  
The Cockney,  
The Codfish,  
Fate of Sergeant Thin,  
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Strings,  
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The Secret,  
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The Useful Doctor,  
The Waterfall,  
To the Bachelors' Union  
League,  
United States Presidents,  
Vagaries of Popping the  
Question,  
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Yankee Doodle Aladdin,  
Ze Moskeetare,  
1933.

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Woman's Claims,  
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The Real Conqueror,  
The Citizen's Heritage,  
Italy,  
The Mechanic,  
Nature and Nature's God,  
The Modern Good, [Sun,  
Ossian's Address to the  
Independence Bell—1777,

John Burns, Gettysburg,  
No Sect in Heaven,  
Miss Prude's Tea-Party,  
The Power of an Idea,  
The Beneficence of the  
Suffrage, [Sea,  
Dream of the Revelers,  
How Cyrus Laid the Cable,  
The Prettiest Hand,  
Paradoxical,  
Little Jerry, the Miller,

The Neck,  
Foggy Thoughts,  
The Ladies' Man,  
Life,  
The Idler,  
The Unbeliever,  
The Two Lives,  
The True Scholar,  
Judges not Infallible,  
Fanaticism,  
Instability of Successful  
Agriculture, [Crime,  
Ireland,  
The People Always Con-  
Music of Labor, [quer,  
Prussia and Austria,  
Wishing,

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on the Situation,  
Hans Schwackheimer on  
Woman's Suffrage,  
All for a Nomination,  
Old Ocean, [Sea,  
The Sea, the Sea, the open  
Star Banged Spanner,  
Stay Where You Belong,  
Life's What You Make It,  
Where's My Money,  
Speech from Conscience,  
Man's Relation to Society,  
The Limits to Happiness,  
Good-nature a Blessing,  
Sermon from Hard-shell  
Tail-enders, [Baptist,  
The Value of Money,  
Meteoric Disquisition,  
Be Sure You are Right,  
Be of Good Cheer,  
Crabbed Folks, [Shrew,  
Taming a Masculine  
Farmers, [Our Country,  
The True Greatness of

The Blarney Stone,  
The Student of Bonn,  
The Broken Household,  
The Bible,  
The Purse and the Sword  
My Country,  
True Moral Courage,  
What is War?  
Butter,  
My Deborah Lee,  
The Race,  
The Pin and Needle,  
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Immortality of the Soul,  
Occupation,  
Heroism and Daring,  
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New England and Union,  
The Unseen Battlefield,  
Plea for the Republic,  
America, [Fallacy,  
"Right of Secession" a  
Life's Sunset,  
Human Nature,  
Lawyers,  
Wrongs of the Indians,  
Appeal in behalf of Am.  
Miseries of War, [Liberty,  
A Lay Sermon,  
A Dream,  
Astronomical,  
The Moon, [zens,  
Duties of American Citi-  
The Man,  
Temptations of Cities,  
Broken Resolutions,  
There is no Death,  
Races,  
A Fruitful Discourse,  
A Frenchman's Dinner,  
Unjust National Acqui'n,  
The Amateur Coachman,

The Cold-water Man,  
Permanency of States,  
Liberty of Speech,

John Thompson's Dau'r,  
House Cleaning,  
It Is Not Your Business.

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The Suicidal Cat,  
A Valediction,  
Popping Corn,  
The Editor,  
The Same, in rhyme,  
The Fairy Shoemaker,  
What Was Learned,  
Press On,  
The Horse,  
The Snake in the Grass,  
Tale of the Tropics,  
Bromley's Speech,  
The Same, second extract  
The Fisher's Child,  
Shakspearian Scholar,  
A Maiden's Psalm of Life,  
A Mixture,  
Plea for Skates,  
Playing Ball,  
Ah, Why,  
Live for Something,  
Lay of the Hen-Pecked,  
The Outside Dog,  
Wolf and Lamb,  
Lion in Love,  
Frogs Asking for a King,  
Sick Lion,  
Country and Town Mice,  
Man and Woman,  
Home,  
The Lotus-Planter,  
Little Things,  
A Baby's Soliloquy,  
Repentance,  
A Plea for Eggs,  
Humbug Patriotism,  
Night After Christmas,  
Short Legs,  
Shrimps on Amusements,

How the Raven Became  
Black,  
A Mother's Work,  
The Same,  
Who Rules,  
A Sheep Story,  
A Little Correspondent,  
One Good Turn Deserves  
My Dream, [Another,  
Rain,  
I'll Never Use Tobacco,  
A Mosaic,  
The Old Bachelor,  
Prayer to Light,  
Little Jim,  
Angelina's Lament,  
Johnny Shrimps on Boots  
Mercy,  
Choice of Hours,  
Poor Richard's Sayings,  
Who Killed Tom Roper,  
Nothing to Do,  
Honesty Best Policy,  
Heaven,  
Ho for the Fields,  
Fashion on the Brain,  
On Shanghai,  
A Smile,  
Casabianca,  
Homoeopathic Soup,  
Nose and Eyes,  
Malt, [Come,  
A Hundred Years to  
The Madman and his  
Little Sermons, [Razor,  
Snuffles on Electricity,  
The Two Cradles,  
The Ocean Storm,  
Do Thy Little—Do it Well  
Little Puss,  
Base-Ball, [Fever,  
Prescription for Spring

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Ben Buster's Oration,  
Hans Von Spiegel's 4th,  
Josh Billings's Advice,  
A Hard-shell Sermon,  
The Boots,  
The Squeezer,  
Noah and the Devil,  
A Lover's Luck,  
Hifalutin Adolphus,  
Digestion and Paradise,  
Distinction's Disadvant-  
Smith, [ages,  
Gushalina Bendibus,  
A Stock of Notions,  
Speaking for the Sheriff,  
Daking a Shweat,  
Then and Now,  
Josh Billings's Lecturing,  
Doctor De Blister's Ann't,  
Consignments,  
Hard Lives,  
Dan Bryant's Speech,  
A Colored View,  
Original Maud Muller,  
Nobody,  
Train of Circumstances,  
Good Advice,  
The Itching Palm,

Drum-head Sermons,  
Schnitzer's Philosophede,  
"Woman's Rights,"  
Luke Lather,  
The Hog,  
Jack Spratt,  
New England Tragedy,  
The Ancient Bachelor,  
Jacob Whittle's Speech,  
Jerks Prognosticates,  
A Word with Snooks,  
Sut Lovengood,  
A Mule Ride,  
Josh Billings on Buzzers,  
Il Trovatore,  
Kissing in the Street,  
Scandalous,  
Slightly Mixed,  
The Office-seeker,  
Old Bachelors,  
Woman,  
The Niam Niams,  
People Will Talk,  
Swackhamer's Ball,  
Who Wouldn't be Fire'n,  
Don't Depend on Dadda,  
Music of Labor,  
The American Ensign.

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Constitution of,  
By-Laws of,  
Rules of Government,  
Local Rules of Order,  
Local Rules of Debate,  
Subjects of Discussion.  
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Why there are few good  
Debaters,  
Prerequisites to Oratori-  
cal Success,  
The Logic of Debate,  
The Rhetoric of Debate,  
Maxims to Observe,  
The Preliminary Premise,  
Order of Argument,  
Summary.  
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Assemblies,  
The Organization,  
Order of Business and  
Proceedings,  
The "Question." How it  
can be Treated,  
The "Question." How to  
be Considered,  
Rights to the Floor,  
Rights of a Speaker as  
Against the Chair,  
Calling Yeas and Nays,  
Interrupting a Vote,  
Organization of Delibera-  
tive Bodies, Conven-  
tions, Annual or Gen-  
eral Assemblies,

Preliminary Organization  
Permanent Organization,  
The Order of Business,  
Considering Reports, Pa-  
pers, etc.,  
Of Subsidiary Motions,  
The Due Order of Con-  
sidering Questions,  
Committees,  
Objects of a Committee,  
Their Powers,  
How Named,  
When Not to Sit,  
Rules of Order and Pro-  
cedure,  
How to Report,  
The Committee of the  
Whole,  
Miscellaneous,  
Treatment of Petitions,  
The Decorum of Debate,  
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Benefit to his Country  
—the Warrior, States-  
man, or Poet?  
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Works of Fiction to be  
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Italy's Alien Ruler,  
Curse of One Man Power,  
Treaty of Peace (1814),  
The Critical Moment,  
The East and the West,  
Is There any Money in It?  
Are we a Nation?  
Social Science,  
Influence of Liberty,  
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The Pumpkin,  
When You're Down,  
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The Right of Neutrality,  
The National Flag,  
Our True Future,

Gravelotte,  
All Hail!  
Emancipation of Science,  
Spirit of Forgiveness,  
Amnesty and Love,  
Beauty,  
Song of Labor,  
Manifest Destiny,  
Let It Alone!  
Disconcerted Candidate,  
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Breitman,  
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The Irish of It. A parody  
What We See in the Sky.  
What I Wish,  
Good Manners,  
A Ballad of Lake Erie,  
Suffrage,  
The Caucasian Race,  
A Review of Situation,  
Little Breeches, [ding,  
Hans Donderbeck's Wed-  
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My Uncle Adolphus.

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The Great Commoner,  
Character and Achieve-  
ment,  
"I Can't,"  
"It Might Have Been,"  
Don't Strike a Man When  
Down,  
On Keeping at It,  
Treasures of the Deep,  
Keep Cool,  
The Precious Freight,  
A Sketch,  
Sword the True Arbiter,  
Aristocracy,  
Baron Grimalkin's Death  
Obed Snipkins,  
A Catastrophe,  
Cheerfulness,  
Mountains,  
Last Lay of the Minstrel,  
The Unlucky Lovers,  
The Dread Secret,  
Civil Service Reform,

The True Gentleman,  
The Tragic Pa,  
SABBATH-SCHOOL PIECES.  
A Cry for Life,  
The Sabbath,  
Gnarled Lives,  
A Good Life,  
To Whom Shall We Give  
Thanks?  
Resolution,  
Never Mind,  
The Bible,  
Christianity Our Bul-  
work,  
The Want of the Hour,  
The Midnight Train,  
The Better View,  
Do Thy Little—Do it Well  
Jesus Forever,  
The Heart,  
The World,  
Beautiful Thoughts,  
A Picture of Life,  
Be True to Yourself,  
Young Man,  
Time is Passing,  
The Gospel of Autumn,  
Speak Not Harshly,  
Courage,  
The Eternal Hymn,  
Live for Good,  
The Silent City.

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Higher,  
The Closing Year,  
The Maniac's Defense,  
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Bachelors and Flirts,  
Job's Turkey,  
A Hardshell Sermon,  
My First Knife,  
Der Loddery Dicket,  
A Canni-Ballad,  
Woman's Rights,  
What's the Matter,  
Mrs. Jones's Pirate,  
De Goose,  
Touch of the Sublime,  
Blooded Van Snoozle,  
Blast Against Tobacco,  
Tobacco Boys,  
Big Geniuses,  
My First Cigar,  
Terrible T-tale,  
Silver Wedding,  
Prohibition,

Unlucky,  
Queer People,  
Biting One's Nose Off,  
Golden Rules,  
The Singular Man,  
Fourth of July Oration,  
Cheer Up,  
Self-Esteem,  
Buckwheat Cakes,  
Twain's Little Boy,  
A Word with You,  
A Chemical Lament,  
The Candy-Pulling,  
Contentment,  
On Courting,  
On Laughing,  
The Tanner Boy,  
On Wimmen's Rights,  
The Healer,  
The Criminal Lawyer,  
Ballad of Matilda Jane,  
Water,  
The Ballad of a Baker,  
Good for Something,  
A Moving Sermon.

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Schaudal,  
Don't Be Afraid,  
Gamboling,  
Indemembrance,  
Gretchen und Me go Qud,  
Hope. Das ish vat it ish,  
"Dot Musquiter,"  
Leadle Gal-child's Dream  
There Vas no Crying,  
Leadle Speedches,  
Pells, Pells,  
The Puzzled Dutchman,  
Address to a School,  
His Sphere,  
Translations from Esop,  
The Treachery of Jones,  
Don't Call a Man a Liar,  
Man. A Lecture,  
Bu'st. A "Dialect,"  
Simon Short's Son Sam,  
Reckermember der Poor,  
Natural History Views,  
The Cart before the Horse  
To See Ourselves,

Sorrowful Tale,  
The Loafer's Society,  
It's the Early Bird, etc.,  
Music,  
On Lager Beer,  
Caudle's Wedding Day,  
Dot Young Viddow,  
The Best Cow in Peril,  
Frequent Critters,  
In for the Railr ad,  
Song of the Sink,  
Case of young Bangs,  
The Illinois Assembly,  
The Cannibal Man,  
Boss Bagshaw,  
Pretzel as a Soldier,  
The Raccoon,  
My Childhood,  
Schneider's Ride,  
Boy Suffrage,  
Gardening,  
He vas Drunkin',  
Abner Jones' Testimony,  
By a Money Changer's.

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The Crusader's Appeal,  
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I Have Drank My Last,  
The Spirit-Siren,  
Rum's Maniac,  
Life is What we Make it,  
Taste Not,  
The Evil Beast,  
Help,  
The Hardest Lot of All,  
The Curse of Rum,  
The Two Dogs: A fable,  
The Source of Reform,  
The Rum Fiend,  
True Law and False,  
In Bad Company,  
The Only True Nobility,  
The Inebriate's End,  
A Drunken Soliloquy,  
The Work to Do,  
To Labor is to Pray,

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The Kings of Business,  
Purity of Speech,  
Parson Caldwell,  
Value of Reputation,  
Hand that Rocks World,  
Swelling Manhood,  
Summer,  
Woman's Love,  
The Bricklayers,  
Words of Silver,  
Drive on! Drive on!  
The Tramp,  
The State Immortal,  
The Moral Factor,  
Walking with the World,  
The only Safety,  
Knowledge,  
Be Careful what you Say  
Stand by the Constit'n,  
A True Friend,  
The Mocking-Bird,  
The Want of the Country  
The Value of Virtue,  
She Would be a Mason,  
Evils of Ignorance,  
The Use of Time,  
Come Down,

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Columbia,  
Washington,  
Appeal for Liberty,  
The American Hero,  
Resistance to Oppression,  
Patriotism,  
Green Mountain Boys,  
Eloquence of Ods,  
Washington,  
America Must be Free,  
Freedom the Only Hope,  
Day of Disinthrallment,  
No Alternative but Liber-  
Carmen Bellicosum, [ty,  
Sword of Bunker Hill,  
The Fourth of July,  
Warren's Address,  
A Call to Liberty,  
Good Faith,  
Revolutionary Soldiers,  
Our Responsibility,  
British Barbarity,  
How Freedom is Won,  
Adams and Liberty,  
Our Duties,  
Our Destiny,  
The American Flag,  
The True Union,  
American Independence,  
Washington and Franklin

**Serio-Comic Speaker, No. 19.**

The American Phalanx,  
The Same,  
The Old Canoe,  
Room at the Top,  
New England Weather,  
Bluggs,  
Leadle Yawcob Strauss,  
A Fable,  
The Tramp's Views,  
Moral Littleness,  
Yawcob Hoffeltegobble,  
The Setting Sackem,  
Street Arab's Sermon,  
Address to Young Ladies,  
A Little Big Man,  
The Test of Friendship,  
The Price of Pleasure,  
Sour Grapes,  
The Unwritten "Claws,"  
The Ager,  
Fish,  
Judge Not Thy Brother,  
The Dog St. Bernard,  
The Liberal Candidate,  
A Boy's Opinion of Hens,  
Good Alone are Great,  
The Great Napoleon,  
The Two Lives,  
The Present Age,  
At Midnight,  
Good night,  
Fruin,  
The Funny Man,

**Dime Select Speaker, No. 20.**

God,  
Save the Republic,  
Watches of the Night,  
The Closing Year.

The Successful Life,  
Better Than Gold,  
Seed-Time and Harvest,  
Invocation to Cold Water  
Now, [Learn,  
The Great Lesson to  
The Toper's Lament,  
God's Liquor,  
Value of Life Work,  
"Accept the Situation,"  
Died of Whisky,  
A Story with a Moral,  
Breakers Ahead,  
Ichabod Sly,  
Effects of Intemperance,  
The Whisky Why is It,  
Local Option,  
Be Good to the Body,  
Worth Makes the Man.

Anatomical Lecture,  
Minnetunkee,  
The Printing Press,  
The Sabbath,  
Busybodies,  
Anatomical Lecture 2,  
A Blow in the Dark,  
The Specter Caravan,  
The True Saviors,  
True Fame,  
Something to Shun,  
Plea for Ireland,  
Smile Where'er you Can,  
The Wood of Stars,  
A Thought,  
The Housemaid,  
The Goblin Cat,  
Aristocrats,  
The Knightly Newsboy,  
A Call to Vote,  
The Modern Fraud,  
Running for Legislature,  
To a Young Man,  
Heads,  
The New Dispensation,  
Turning the Grindstone,  
Short Sermon.

Sink or Swim,  
The Buff and Blue,  
The Union,  
The Martyr Spy,  
Lexington,  
Our Only Hope,  
Declaration of Independ-  
The Liberty Bell, [ence,  
Washington's Attributes,  
What We Are,  
Our Great Trust,  
God Bless our States,  
Looking Backward,  
Marion and His Men,  
Liberty and Union,  
A Noble Plea,  
Original Yankee Doodle,  
Wolfe's Address,  
Watching for Montgom-  
The National Ensign, [ery  
God Save the Union,  
Our Natal Day,  
The 22d of February,  
New England's Dead,  
Repeal! Repeal!  
The True Hero,  
Old Ironsides,  
Our Gifts to History,  
Uncle Sam's a Hundred,  
Centennial Oration.

The Little Orator,  
Pompey Squash,  
Mr. Lo's New Version,  
The Midnight Express,  
Morality's Worst Enemy,  
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The Working People,  
The Moneyless Man,  
Strike Through the Knot,  
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The Mill Cannot Grind,  
What Became of a Lie,  
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Early Rising,  
Smart Boy's Opinion,  
The Venomous Worm,  
Corns,  
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Dead Beat in Politics,  
War and Dueling,  
Horses. A Protest,  
Excelsior, [elsior,  
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A Chemical Wedding

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An Enemy to Society,  
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The Most Precious Gift.

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Penalty of Selfishness,  
Lights Out,  
Clothes Don't Make the  
Man,  
The Last Man,  
Mind Your Own Business  
My Fourth of July Senti-  
ments,  
My Esquimaux Friend,  
Story of the Little Rid Hin  
My Castle in Spain,  
Shonny Schwartz,  
The Indian's Wrongs,  
Address to Young Men,  
Beautiful Snow,  
Now is the Time,  
Exhortation to Patriots,  
He is Everywhere,  
A Dream of Darkness,

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Col. Sellers Elucidates,  
Clory Mit Ter Sthars und  
Sthripes, [otism,  
Terence O'Dowd's Patri-  
Lime Kiln Club Oration,  
Farmer Thornbush on  
The Fiddler, [Fools,  
The Regular Season,  
The School Boy's Lament,  
Dot Baby Off Mine,  
Bluggs Once More,  
Views on Agriculture,  
One Hundred Years Ago,  
De 'Sperience ob de Reh-  
rend Quacko Strong,  
A Dollar or Two,  
On Some More Hash,  
Where Money is King,  
Professor Dinkelspeigel  
man on the Origin of  
Life,  
Konsentrated Wisdum,  
Joseph Brown and the  
Mince Pie,  
John Jenkins's Sermon,  
A Parody on "Tell Me Ye  
Winged Winds,"

**Dime Jolly Speaker, No. 22.**

Grandfather's Clock,  
The XIXth Century,  
Mary's Von Little Ram,  
A Familiar Lecture on  
Science,  
Old and New Time,  
Clayfoot's Spirit Race,  
The Village School,  
A Sermon for the Sisters,  
De Filosofy ob Fun,  
Disappointed Discoverer,  
A Heathen's Score,  
Der Dog und der Lobster,  
The Young Tramp,  
Delights of the Season,  
The Delights of Spring,  
Josh Billings's Views,  
Beasteses,  
How tew Pik out a  
Watermelon,  
How tew Pik out a Dog,  
How tew Pik out a Kat,  
How tew Pik out a Wife  
This Side and That,  
Nocturnal Mewsings,  
The Lunatic's Reverie,  
A Bathetic Ballad,  
The Ear,  
Backbone,

**Dime Dialect Speaker, No. 23.**

Dat's W'at's De Matter,  
The Mississippi Miracle,  
Ven Te Tide Cooms In,  
Dose Lams Vot Mary Haf  
Got, [man's Rights,  
Pat O'Flaherty On Wo-  
The Home Rulers,  
Hezekiah Dawson On  
Mothers-In-Law,  
He Didn't Sell The Farm,  
The True Story of Frank-  
lin's Kite, [Again,  
I Would I Were a Boy  
A Pathetic Story,  
All About a Bee,  
Scandal,  
A Dark Side View,  
Te Pesser Vay,  
On Learning German,  
Mary's Shmall Vite Lamb,  
A Healthy Discourse,  
Tobias So To Speak,  
Old Mrs. Grimes,  
A Parody,  
Mars and Cats,  
Bill Underwood, Pilot,  
Old Granley,  
The Pill Peddler's Oration  
Widder Green's last words  
Latest Chinese Outrage,

Religion the Keystone,  
Scorn of Office,  
Who are the Free,  
The City on the Hill,  
How to Save the Repub-  
lic,  
The Good Old Times,  
Monmouth,  
Hope,  
Moral Desolation,  
Self-evident Truths,  
Won't you let my Papa  
Work,  
Conscience the Best  
Guide,  
Whom to Honor,  
The Lords of Jaber,  
Early Rising,  
Pumpnickel and Pep-  
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Only a Tramp,  
Cage Them,  
Time's Soliloquy,  
Find a Way or Make It,  
The Musquito Hunza,  
The Hero.

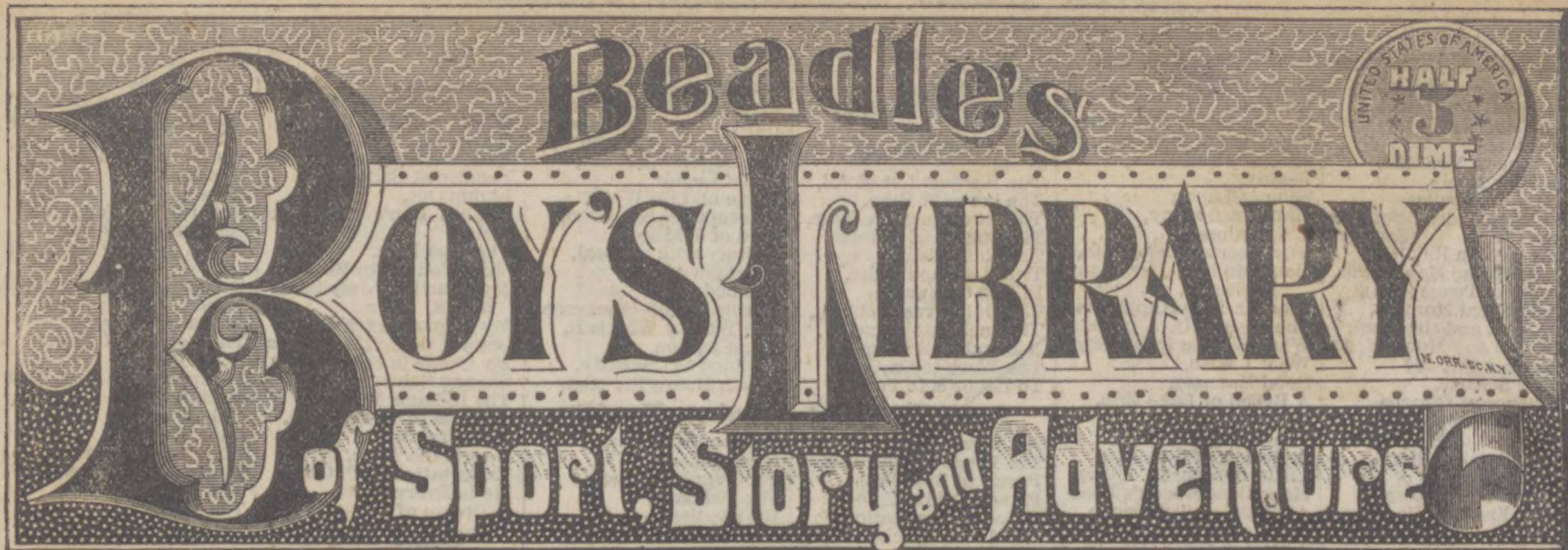
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Josiah Axtell's Oration,  
Parson Barebones's An  
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Fritz Valdher is Made a  
Mason,  
Joan of Arc,  
Blessings of Farm Life,  
The People,  
Thermopylae,  
Cats,  
Jim Bludso; or, The Prai  
rie Belle,  
A Catastrophic Ditty,  
The Maniac's Defense,  
Woman, God Bless Her!  
Be Miserable,  
Dodds versus Daubs,  
The Cadi's Judgment,  
That Calf.

A Weak Case,  
They May Be Happy Yet,  
Orpheus. A Side View,  
Perseus. A "Classic,"  
Rigid Reformation,  
The Funny Man,  
Don't Give It Away,  
A Dark Warning. A  
"Colored" Dissertation  
An Awful Warning. An  
Effective Appeal,  
De Parson Sowed de Seed,  
Pompey's Thanksgiving  
Turkey,  
The New Essay On Man,  
A New Declaration of  
Independence,  
The Jolly Old Fellow. A  
Christmas Welcome,  
My First Coat,  
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A Patriotic "Splurge,"  
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